

dependence on oil imports poses a threat to national security.

This is not a new report; we have heard this before. What is new is the lack of action that has been taken by this administration. In response to this report, President Clinton has decided not to respond; he has chosen to continue on with the same energy policies that have put us at risk.

Last year, our country imported more oil than it ever has before. Domestic production has fallen and American oil and gas workers are losing jobs. The administration should not ignore this plight.

The Commerce Department study has little to say about stripper wells. That troubles me. Nationwide, there are more than 478,000 stripper wells. These stripper wells produce more than 1.4 million barrels a day. When foreign oil floods this country, the price of oil falls below the cost of operating most stripper wells. That's what has happened in the last quarter of 1993 and the first quarter of 1994.

The Commerce Department concedes this saying, "The impact of low prices has been especially severe on small producers operating stripper wells" yet fails to provide a solution. Stripper wells serve an important role in this country and without them our dependency on foreign oil only increases.

This administration has ignored the plight of the industry for some time now. Various proposals have been discussed with the President, but no action was taken. The failure to recognize the implications to national security as well as to the economy is unacceptable.

There is a need to identify opportunities for assistance to the domestic oil and gas industry. For this reason, I have cosponsored legislation with Senator NICKLES and Senator INHOFE which will address the needs of this industry. The bill proposes support for production and addresses numerous issues that pose unnecessary burdens to the industry.

I believe this legislation is necessary to begin the discussion on the status of the domestic oil and gas industry and in light of the recent lack of action by the administration, a review of our Nation's energy policies and approaches.

NATIONAL ENGINEERS WEEK

Mr. PRESSLER. Mr. President, this week our Nation celebrates National Engineers Week. This week is sponsored by a coalition of 64 engineering societies, corporations, and government agencies. This year the event is being chaired by the American Institute of Chemical Engineers [AIChE] and Fluor Corp. As chairman of the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, I would like to take a moment to recognize the contributions the 1.8 million engineers in our country make to improve the quality of our lives.

Mr. President, try to imagine what our lives would be like without the en-

gineering achievements of the 20th century. Imagine a world with no television, no airplanes, no computers, no cordless telephones, no miracle drugs, no interstate highway system, no central heating and air conditioning, or no communication satellites.

Each of these items began only as an idea. Each needed engineers to transform the idea into reality. Engineers are the men and women who plan, design, and direct the manufacturing or construction of nearly every human-made element of the world. The very word "engineer" comes from the Latin word "ingeniare", which means "to devise." For centuries, engineers have devised things to solve problems.

From clothes to communications, medicines to microwave ovens, television to transportation, potato chips to microchips, the work of engineers touches every aspect of our lives. Engineers turn ideas into reality through technology. In the process, engineers make our lives easier, healthier, more efficient, and more fun.

Mr. President, I am sure several of my colleagues already are aware of the significant role engineers play in our society. That is because they are engineers themselves. The Senator from Virginia, Senator WARNER, and the senator from Ohio, Senator GLENN, were both trained as engineers. They each made significant contributions to the national security and leadership of our Nation before serving their country in this body. Both bring technical expertise and a much needed perspective to our public policy debates.

During National Engineers Week, we should not only look back at the achievement of engineers, but also look forward. If we are to maintain the standard of living and leadership role in the world we currently enjoy, we must assure a strong emphasis on mathematics and science in education. The quality of our future lies in our ability to attract the best and the brightest young minds to study and pursue careers in engineering.

Mr. President, I commend the engineers of the Nation, past and present, for their contributions to the well-being of our Nation. I join them in celebrating National Engineers Week.

THE U.N. CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, on February 16, Ambassador Madeleine Albright signed the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child. The United States joined 175 other countries that have signed and/or ratified the Convention. The next step would be for the administration to send the Convention—and a statement of any reservations and understandings—to the Senate for our advice and consent.

Mr. President, in the past several days, I have received thousands of calls from all over the country in opposition to this Convention. My office has not received one call for it. These contacts

have raised many serious problems that need to be examined. They have raised questions about Articles 13, 14, and 15, which grant children the freedom of speech, thought, conscience, religion, association, and assembly. Could these articles be interpreted to limit the ability of parents to decide for themselves how best to raise their children? Should U.S. citizens be subject to some sort of international committee that enforces compliance with Article 28(2) which states: "State Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that school discipline is administered in a manner consistent with the child's human dignity and in conformity with the present Convention"?

Under Article VI of the Constitution, Senate ratification of this treaty would make it the supreme law of the land. Would the Convention then supersede Federal and State laws? What would the effect of the Convention be on the tenth amendment? Is the Convention merely a symbolic exercise, or will it actually require the United States to take actions? These are sincere questions from sincere people. They deserve answers.

Mr. President, I realize the original intent of the Convention was to protect children from such abuses as forced labor and to improve the situation for those children in many parts of the world. No doubt about it, many children around the world face unbearable and unacceptable conditions every day. And for these children, a properly crafted document could provide some much needed relief.

However, I also believe we in the United States have made significant progress in protecting the rights of the child through Federal, State, and local laws. These laws are better equipped to deal with the varying challenges posed by the issue of child rights. If there is one thing this election taught us, it is the need to get excessive government out of people's lives. This applies to the Federal government, and it certainly applies to the multilateral, quasi-government that is the U.N.

I don't know the administration's timetable for sending the Convention to the Senate for advice and consent. When submitted, it will be referred to the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations—where I am certain it will receive the careful review it deserves. However, until all the questions that thousands of Americans have about the Convention are satisfactorily answered, I will not support ratification of this Convention.

NATIONAL ENGINEERS WEEK

Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, February 19-25, 1995 marks National Engineers Week, a time when America honors the 1.8 million men and women who make up our Nation's second largest profession.